

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3893

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15703

EXDIS

TO THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR VOLPE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI - NOVEMBER 3

REF: (A) STATE 252256, (B) ROME 15548

1. I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU HAVE AGREED TO MEET WITH ANDREOTTI DURING HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO THE STATES. HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATES THE APPOINTMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS YOUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE IPU DELEGATION (AS DISCUSSED REFTELS).

2. AS YOU KNOW, I LOOK TO ANDREOTTI AS ONE OF THE FEW DC LEADERS WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO LEAD THE DC IN MAKING THE BEST F CHT POSSIBLE AGAINST PCI HISTORIC COMPROMISE PLANS. HOWEVER, ANDREOTTI IS A SHREWD POLITICIAN WHO MAKES IT HIS BUSINESS NOT TO BE ON THE SHORT END OF MANY ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DICK WALTERS, ANDREOTTI ASKED TO BE INFORMED IF THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IS USG OPPOSITION TOWARDS THE PCI BECAUSE HE "WOULD NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT OFF BASE". THIS REFLECTS ANDREOTTI'S POLITICAL REALISM BUT MUST NOT DETER US FROM DEALING WITH HIM FRANKLY AND FORCEFULLY.

3. I WOULD HOPE IN YOUR MEETING YOU WOULD CONFIRM IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS OUR GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF

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PCI PARTICPATION IN THE GOVERNING MAJORITY AND ABOUT ITS

EFFECTS, NOT ONLY ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT ALSO ON THE STABILITY OF THE WESTERN WORLD.
YOUR MEETING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE WITH ANDREOTTI OUR CONCERN THAT THE DC MOVE QUICKLY AND DRAMATICALLY TOWARDS NECESSARY REJUVENATION AND REFORM OF THE PARTY IN ORDER TO RETAIN THE POLITICAL INITIATIVE. IN MY MEETINGS WITH DC LEADERS I AM INDICATING THAT WE ARE AT THE ZERO HOUR AND THE DC NO LONGER HAS TIME FOR "BUSINESS AS USUAL". OBVIOUSLY, TO HAVE THESE TWO POINTS HAMMERED HOME BY YOU PERSONALLY WOULD NOT ONLY BE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE BUT VERY TIMELY.

4. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ANDREOTTI HAS ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH GENERAL WALTERS AND MIGHT ALSO SEE BILL COLBY.VOLPE

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